Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. The claims have been amended to corrected to conform to United States practice. Minor editorial changes to the claims have been made. Sub-headings have been added to the description. No new matter has been introduced.

Applicants look forward to an early action on the merits.

Respectfully Submitted,

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BY ______________________

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Appendix - Marked Up Version of Claims

1.[°)] (Amended) System of transfer printing, in particular gilding, a motif lifted from a transfer film by a die, which is to be affixed on a receiving strip to form a product, [-] the transfer film and the receiving strip being synchronised at the transfer station at the instant of transfer, [characterised in that it comprises] comprising:

[-] [a] means for driving [(3)] the transfer film[(1)],

[-] [a] means for driving [(5)] the receiving strip[(2)],

[-] a transfer station [(4)] having a transfer means,

[-] [a] control means [(7)] controlling the film drive means, the strip drive means and the transfer means, whereby the film drive means [(3, 31, 32) of the film (1)] feeds the film [(1)] forward by a first step [(L1)] corresponding to the motif to be transferred and the strip drive means [(5) of the receiving strip (2)] feeds said strip [(2)] forward by [the] a second step [(L2)] of the product [(22, 23)] in readiness for each transfer[, and the transfer means (41, 42) of the transfer station (4)].

2.[°)] (Amended) System as claimed in claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein the transfer means includes a transfer element [(41) at the transfer station (4)] which is activated by a jack [(42)], the control means [(7)] immobilising the film [(1)] and the strip [(2)] during the time the transfer is being operated.

3.[°)] (Amended) System as claimed in claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein the transfer means [(4A)] comprises at least one transfer element [(411A, 412A)] mounted on a rotary element [(41A)]; and wherein the film drive means [for driving (3A) the film (1A)] and the strip drive means [that of the receiving strip (2A)] are controlled [(7A)] so as to drive the film [(1A)] and the receiving strip [(2A)] at substantially the same speed as the peripheral speed of the transfer element [(41A)] during the time the transfer is being operated.

4.[°)] (Amended) System as claimed in claim 1, [characterised by] further comprising a first detector [(71, 71A)] assigned to the strip [(2, 2A)] to detect the second step [(L2)] of the product and supply a signal [(S)] to the control means [(7A)] for managing the forward

movement of the strip [(2A)]; and wherein the strip [(2, 2A) has] includes pre-printed markers [(23, 23A)] designed to be read by the first detector [detection means (71, 71A)].

5.[°)] (Amended) System as claimed in claim 1, [characterised in that] further comprising [it has] a second detector [(72C)] assigned to the film [(1C)] to detect the motif [(14C)] of the film [(1C)] and supply a signal [(S2)] to the control means [(7C)] for managing the film drive means [of the film (1C)].

6.[°)] (Amended) System as claimed in claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein the film drive means [for driving the film (1)] and the strip drive means [for driving the receiving strip (2)] are controlled in a manner selected from a group consisting of both [operate] operated step by step, [or] one [is] operated step by step and the other continuously, [or] and both [are] operated continuously.

7.[°)] (Amended) System as claimed in claim 1, [characterised by] wherein there are a plurality of film drive [several] means, disposed in parallel, for driving a plurality of films [(1B, 1'B)] so that several motifs can be transferred to the receiving strip [(2B)] substantially simultaneously.

8.[°)] (Amended) System as claimed in claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein the transfer means includes a transfer cylinder, [the transfer element (41F) is a cylinder,] which prints [the] successive motifs with an offset in order to reduce overlapping thicknesses when the strip is stored [reeled or the sheets cut from the strip are stacked] after the transfer.

9.[°)] (Amended) System as claimed in claim 8, [characterised in that] wherein the transfer cylinder includes [the] transfer elements [(411E, 412E) of the transfer cylinder (41F)] that are distributed around a cylinder with a circular section in an offset arrangement following a line corresponding to the intersection of the cylinder by an inclined plane [(ellipse)].

10.[°)] (Amended) System as claimed in claim 8, [characterised in that] wherein the transfer cylinder includes transfer elements [(411F) and (412F)] are designed to apply to the strip [(2A)]

polychromatic motifs [with or without metal], holographic motifs and zones intended to permit binary recordings, the material for this purpose being lifted from the transfer strip [(1) or (1A)].

11.[°)] (Amended) System as claimed in claim 9, [characterised in that] wherein the transfer elements [(411F) and (412F)] are designed to apply to the strip [(2E)] an antenna of various shapes and dimensions [incorporating amplifiers for example,] in order to optimise the effect of a magneto-restrictive coating with a thickness of approximately 25 to 900 Angström, designed to resonate in an alternating electromagnetic field generated at a selected frequency between approximately 73 and 530 Hz and which will cause no resonance when deactivated.

12.[°)] (Amended) System as claimed in claim 9, [characterised in that] wherein the transfer elements [(411E) and 412E)] are designed to enable the transfer of various shapes and dimensions of printed circuits having insulating and conductive layers, at least one chip [one or more chips] in order to transfer onto [a] the strip [(2D)] an antenna capable of recording, calculating and emitting [in order to provide] for providing an intelligent marker.